

REMARKS

The foregoing claim amendments indicate Claims 1 and 11-15 are canceled, Claims 2-4, and 6-8 are amended, and new Claims 16-18 are added. Applicant respectfully asserts pending Claims 2-10 and 16-18 are in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

The Office Action indicated Claims 1-5, 7, and 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Robinson (U.S. Pat. No. 5,983,180). Applicant traverses this rejection. However, to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application, Applicant cancels Claims 1 and 11-15, and amends Claims 2-4 and 6-8 as described below.

Allowable Subject Matter / Claim Amendments

The Office Action indicated Claims 6 and 8-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 6 and 8 were rewritten as independent claims, as suggested. Claim 9 depends from Claim 8, and Claim 10 depends from Claim 9. Accordingly, Applicant asserts Claims 6 and 8-10 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 2, 3, and 7 were rewritten to depend from Claim 6. Claim 4 was rewritten to depend directly or indirectly from Claim 8. Claim 5 depends from Claim 4. New Claims 16-18 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 8. No new matter is added by the amended claims or new claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts Claims 2-5, 7, and 16-18 are also in condition for allowance for the same reasons as Claims 6 and 8.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication includes alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, the Applicants are not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history

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shall not reasonably infer that the Applicants have made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

Conclusion

The applicant has endeavored to address all of the Examiner's concerns as expressed in the outstanding Office Action. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and that the claims now be found in condition for allowance.

Any claim amendments which are not specifically discussed in the above remarks are not made for patentability purposes, and it is believed that the claims would satisfy the statutory requirements for patentability without the entry of such amendments. Rather, these amendments have only been made to increase claim readability, to improve grammar, and to reduce the time and effort required of those in the art to clearly understand the scope of the claim language.

Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns that might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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AMEND

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